

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown in the Listing of Claims below. This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An automatic document feeder comprising:

a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed;

a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one;

a feeding section configured to feed the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position;

an input section inputting information on the material of the document; and

a separation control section controlling timing of starting a separating operation of a next document in the separating section based on the information on the material of the document inputted by the input section.

21. (Previously Presented) An automatic document feeder according to Claim 20, wherein the input section inputs information on whether or not the document is recording paper recorded in color.

22. (Previously Presented) An automatic document feeder according to Claim 21, wherein the separation control section delays the timing of starting a separating operation when the information indicating that the document is color-recorded paper is inputted more than that for normal paper documents.

23. (Previously Presented) An automatic document feeder according to Claim 22, further comprising a sensor disposed between the separating section and the feeding section and configured to detect the presence of a document,

wherein the separation control section switches between a first separation mode in which the separation of the following document is started after the trailing edge of the document has been detected by the sensor, and a second separation mode in which the separation of the following document is started before the trailing edge of the documents is detected by the sensor, based on the information on the kind of document.

24. (Previously Presented) An automatic document feeder according to Claim 20, wherein the input section inputs information set by a console section of a connected imaging device or information set by a console section of the document feeder.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) An automatic document feeder connected to an imaging device comprising:

a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed;

a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one;

a feeding section configured to feed the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position;

a determining section determining whether the recording mode of the imaging device is a color recording mode or a monochrome recording mode; and

a separation control section controlling timing of starting a separating operation of a next document in the separating section based on the determination of the determining section.

27. (Previously Presented) An automatic document feeder according to Claim 26, wherein the separation control section delays the start timing of the separating operation in the color recording mode more than the start timing of the separating operation in the monochrome recording mode.

28. (Currently Amended) An automatic document feeder connected to an imaging device, comprising:

a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed;

a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one;

a carrying section carrying the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position;

a determining section determining whether or not the imaging device connected to the automatic document feeder has a color recording function; and

a separation control section controlling timing of starting a separating operation of a next document in the separating section based on the determination of the determining section.

29. (Previously Presented) An automatic document feeder connected to an imaging device, according to Claim 28, wherein the separation control section delays the timing of starting the separating operation when the imaging device has the color recording function more than the timing of starting the separating operation when the imaging device has no color recording function.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an automatic document feeder including a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed, a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one, and a feeding section feeding the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position, the method comprising:

inputting information on the kind of document; and

controlling a separation start timing of a next document in the separating section based on the information on the kind of document inputted in the input step.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an automatic document feeder connected to a imaging device including a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed, a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one, and a carrying section carrying the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position, the method comprising:

determining whether a recording mode in the imaging device is a color recording mode or a monochrome recording mode; and

controlling a separation start timing of a next document in the separating section based on the determination in the determining step.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an automatic document feeder connected to an imaging device including a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed, a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one, and a feeding section feeding the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position, the method comprising:

determining whether or not the imaging device has a color recording function; and

controlling a separation start timing of a next document in the separating section based on the determination in the determining step.